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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1921.

## Personal News, Facts, Fancies and Brief Happenings Abroad as Told by the Cables

## BRINGS DEATH, HUGE COST AND SICKNESS

**\$3,000,000 a Day Estimated Loss—Anti-Smoke Agitation Is Revived.**

## PLANES SAFE IN MURK

**Frenchman's Invention Will Guide Steamships Also in Thick Weather.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
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New York Herald Bureau.  
London, Dec. 3.

The fog in London this week, the worst the city has had in years, revived the agitation for abatement measures, with the Coal and Smoke Abatement Society launching a new campaign against those of the population who hold to the old tradition that the fog is the most distinctive feature of London and that it preserved it.

It is estimated that the fog this week cost \$3,000,000 a day. It lasted three days. All trains were delayed because signals could not be seen, omnibus service failed completely several times and much work was interrupted. Sixty odd vessels with London cargoes were tied up at Gravesend. It was every respect a smoke fog, for twenty miles out the sun shone brilliantly.

"It is impossible to compute the damage which this smoke canopy inflicted on health, clothing, buildings, works of art and property of all kinds," says Lawrence Chubb, secretary of the abatement society. "Huge drapery establishments must have lost thousands of pounds sterling as a result of the disease which the fog brought on. This article exposed to the air. Moreover, thousands of persons suffered headaches and were incapacitated temporarily due to breathing unclean air."

"Slides taken of atmospheric conditions prove that it was smoke alone. The air was full of particles of soot that between 200 and 350 tons of soot were carried during the period of the fog that would have been the case had there been no fog."

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Six drownings were reported as a result of men walking off piers.

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## AERIAL RAILWAY TO SPEED AT 300 MILES AN HOUR

**Glasgow Engineer Suspends Train Between Upper and Lower Steel Rails, Claiming It Will Actually Fly After Attaining Moderate Momentum.**

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New York Herald Bureau.  
London, Dec. 3.

George Rennie, an engineer of Glasgow, has invented an "aerial railway," which is said to be a compromise in the methods of locomotion between a train and an aircraft. He claims it will develop a speed of between 200 and 300 miles an hour and that after a moderately high speed has been attained the car will actually fly.

A steel rail carried by cantilevers is supported on upright standards. There is a second rail in a parallel position, but underneath the car. The propulsion is by a pair of airplane propellers, one at the front and the other at the rear, which are driven by internal combustion engines or electric motors. When in operation the car would hang from the overhead rail and would be prevented by the lower rail from swinging under wind pressure. He claims that his system would require a lower capital outlay and maintenance cost than an ordinary railway.

## BERLIN GAINING AS GERMAN ART CENTRE

**Revolution Expressed More Effectively With Brushes Than With Votes.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
New York Herald Bureau.  
Berlin, Dec. 3.

Berlin is claiming supremacy over Paris as the centre of modern painting. There are two exhibits now on view: that of the Berlin Secession and of the Berlin Jurys, the latter collection of 2,000 canvases filling the largest exhibition hall of which the German capital boasts.

Ever since the revolution Munich, Dresden and Düsseldorf have wanted and Berlin proportionately has gained as the home of German art endeavor. Despite their increasing poverty the number of artists has grown surprisingly and it is often said that the revolution is being more effectively expressed with German brushes than with German votes.

Those familiar with the seething activity of artists here do not hesitate to say that this is the greatest productive period in German history, and while the quality of the greater part of the output has caused bitter controversy it is never denied that it is one of the most hopeful signs of contemporary Germany that so much work is being done.

The two exhibits which are now open, however, mark a pronounced change from revolutionary tendencies. The so-called Gothic revival, under whose banner the expressionists went out to battle against conservatism in technique and conception, seems to have spent its strength. The majority of paintings in the Secession gallery are impressionistic in this time, which might have been expected in the light of the Secession Society having yielded only reluctantly to the expressionist influence.

But the Jurys, or exhibit without jury, shows that even the untrammelled German painters have been fatigued by their efforts to deal with the severity and complex problems of the expressionist school. While there are many examples of extremist work, the bulk of the paintings there deal with subjects in naturalistic proportions and emphasize color and vitality more than a departure from things as the eye sees them.

Critics who call attention to this reaction even go so far as to predict that expressionism is dead in Germany, where only recently it had its greatest following.

However, Schmidt Rottloff, the leading exponent of pure expressionism, has yet a large number of paintings in the Jurys, and these are surrounded by many talented works, in which his influence is exceptionally clear. And even in the Secession Gallery, Steinhilber and Zeller display new pictures testifying to the power and importance of expressionist principles. Louis Corinth, dean of German impressionists, shares the honors at this gallery with von Koenig and I. N. Richter. Corinth has had a stroke of apoplexy, and the present exhibit is likely to be his last.

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## SAVANTS OFFER DEBATE CALENDAR REFORM PROPOSALS

**A Few Turn Attention to Pickering Theory of an Inhabited Moon.**

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New York Herald Bureau.  
Paris, Dec. 3.

While the rest of the world is wringing its forehead over the armament problems and as to whether it is possible to make Germany pay her debts, French savants are concentrating their whole attention to-day on two problems which have worried a score of generations.

The first of these is whether the moon is inhabited, as Prof. Pickering contends, and the second is whether it is wise to commence a revision of the Gregorian calendar so as to do away with the leap years.

The moon's population, as a matter of fact, is considered here as the lesser of the two questions, regardless of what Prof. Pickering thinks of the great scheme of using a mine shaft as a telescope barrel in photographing lunar landscapes, the majority of French astronomers are backing the noted Abbe Moreaux, director of the Burgundy Observatory, who says that it would be impossible for any type of life such as we know to exist under lunar conditions.

"It is ridiculous and fantastic," declares Abbe Moreaux. "Why, the temperature of the moon during the period corresponding to the present day is never less than 200 degrees centigrade. Who could conceive of human existence under such boiling conditions? Then every fourteen days comes the lunar night, which is exactly the reverse, the temperature falling to 200 degrees below zero, or a semi-monthly difference of 400 degrees centigrade, which would be enough to send the whole lunar population into fatal pneumonia."

The calendar problem, however, is exciting great attention and it is certain that the approaching conference at Rome will find the French delegation strong for a change, but the wisdom of tampering with the calendar revision movement with great concern, not desiring to approve any change which will affect the regularity of church festivals.

Father de la Briere, one of the most eminent scientists in the Catholic College, is especially insistent that the savants in trying to make the solar year agree to be heard from, and these may only be overcome by creating a year with four quarters each with thirteen weeks and with the final month in each quarter containing thirty-one days, and then throwing in an extra day here and there to meet the lunar requirements.

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## UPPER SILESIA STATUE IS PLANNED FOR BERLIN SQUARE

**German Newspaper Starts Drive to Perpetuate Memory of Partition.**

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Berlin, Dec. 3.

The Strasbourg statue in Paris in the Place de la Concorde, erected as a symbol of patriotic sorrow for the loss of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine taken by Germany in 1871, probably will find a counterpart in Berlin. A Berlin newspaper has started a publicity drive for an Upper Silesian memorial to be erected in one of Berlin's finest squares. It is intended to symbolize the loss of Upper Silesia and to remind the Germans of "violated justice" and also to assure the Upper Silesians that Berlin does not forget them.

The idea has not fallen on infertile ground. The discussion centres around the most fitting place for a memorial. So far two squares have been suggested, one being the Kaiser Franz Josef Platz opposite the Opera, where Unter den Linden ends. However, it is not likely that it will be placed there, because if it were the memorial would be only a few paces from the statue of Frederick the Great and would thus have lost artistic effect.

The other place suggested is the Pariser Platz, at the other end of Unter den Linden, in front of the Brandenburg Gate. Here the memorial would be a counterpart of the Frederick the Great statue and also would stand prominently before the Reichstag.

The purely artistic part of the question is expected to bring about a lively controversy, because representatives of the different schools of art probably will all claim the right to create so significant a statue.

In referring to the project for such a memorial a foreign diplomat told THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent: "The wisest idea would be to have a cubist or an impressionist make a statue. In view of the fact that the art products of cubists and impressionists consists of details which most people would never believe belonged together, the statue would thus have a double advantage. First, it would be recognizable, which would be apt to prevent a fight with possible international complications. Second, such a statue would be the most fitting symbol of Upper Silesia, which is now going to be split up in the wildest cubist manner."

Merely to suggest it has not yet been definitely decided where the Polish and German delegates shall meet for Upper Silesian negotiations. Both the German and Polish Governments object to Geneva, where the journey of delegates costs millions of marks in paper money. It seems most likely now that the negotiations will be transferred to Katowitz.

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## PREMIER AND HYPNOTIST ENLIVEN LITTLE DUCHY

**Music Hall Artist Buys Title From His Friend the Prime Minister, Who Resigns After Letter Concerning Tour in England Is Published.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
New York Herald Bureau.  
Berlin, Dec. 3.

"The Premier and the Hypnotist" might be a fitting title for a drama whose theatre is the Parliament of the Duchy of Brunswick. One hero is the Independent Socialist Premier of Brunswick, whose name is Sopp Oerter, the other is a music hall artist hypnotist known as Prof. Otto. The latter owes his title of professor to his Premier friend and Premier Oerter is accused of receiving 10,000 marks before and a like sum after bestowing the title on his friend.

A Brunswick newspaper publishes a letter alleged to have been written by Premier Oerter to Prof. Otto wherein the Premier announces his intention of passing a holiday in England with Prof. Otto, the hypnotist, in the capacity of stage manager. According to the alleged letter he requests Otto to obtain several hundred pounds sterling from the British Commission for the trip. "Then," the letter continues, "when I cease to be what I am now I may become your manager. A visiting card bearing the title 'Ex-Minister' would not be a bad advertisement."

Premier Oerter in Parliament denied having received money from Otto and declared that he was suing him. However, he admitted the authenticity of the letter and announced his resignation as Premier and from Parliament.

French composers are greatly excited over the possibility of serious competition from Viennese song writers, as is evidenced by the intention of several Paris theatre managers to revive the French interest in Viennese comic opera, which before the war packed Paris theatres to the doors.

Although Germany's modern music probably would meet with the disapproval of the French public, there is a strange link of sympathy between Parisians and Viennese. Even the most nationalist critics here admit that the safety of Vienna's pre-war life was the closest approach to the Parisian variety, and they are welcoming the return of Lehar's "Merry Widow," "Chocolate Soldier" and other compositions, many of which have been made hideous to the average American by hand organs and phonographs.

Greatest interest attaches, however, to two new operas by Emmerich Kalman—"Princess Czardas" and "Moussoures of Autumn"—which are declared to outclass anything ever presented by Lehar. Both will be presented in Paris theatres early in January with the French text remodelled to suit French audiences.

The Authors' Society, however, is planning a parliamentary protest against their presentation here and will ask the Government to decree a special tax for all performances of foreign operas, comedies and dramas, the returns from the tax to be used as an old age relief fund for French writers and actors.

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## GERMAN TOYS GIVE LONDON CHEAPEST 'XMAS' SINCE 1914

**English Children Will Play With Teuton Guns, Tanks and Airplanes.**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
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New York Herald Bureau.  
London, Dec. 3.

This will be the cheapest Christmas in England since 1914. It will be cheap because it will be largely German. The English child will play with German field guns, German tanks, German airplanes painted in red, white and blue; will operate a German clockwork train painted in English colors, and decorate a German toy tree with German candles and German tinsels.

It is difficult for some parents to forget, but the children these days have only eyes and to them the appeal of these toys is stronger than youthfulness impressions, so the people of small means will be able to please their loved ones. It is the first time since the war that toys have been sold at a reasonable figure.

The German articles show the